

## CLAIMS

1        1. *(Currently amended)* A method in which search items  
2 returned in response to a present user's present search request are  
3 prioritized according to an algorithm which assigns greater weight  
4 to interest indications by relatively similar users making relatively  
5 similar search requests than to interest indications by relatively  
6 dissimilar users and than to interest indications ~~making~~ made in  
7 response to relatively dissimilar search requests.

1        2. *(Original)* A method as recited in Claim 1 comprising the  
2 steps of:  
3        receiving a search request from a user;  
4        assigning said user to a community;  
5        assigning said search request to a search query;  
6        submitting said query so as to yield a set of response items; and  
7        prioritizing said response items as a function of prior search  
8 requests by said community.

1        3. *(Original)* A method as recited in Claim 2 further comprising  
2 tracking indications of interest by said user in individual ones of  
3 said response items and storing the results of said tracking on a  
4 per-user and/or per-community basis.

1        4. *(Original)* A method as recited in Claim 3 further comprising  
2 a step of using said results in prioritizing items collected in  
3 response to subsequent search requests by other users assigned to  
4 said community.

1       5. *(Original)* A method as recited in Claim 3 wherein, all else  
2 being equal, interest indications associated with a community are  
3 given greater weight than other interest indications by the parent of  
4 said community.

1       6. *(Original)* A method as recited in Claim 3 wherein said user  
2 is assigned to a community in part as a function of said indications  
3 of interest.

1       7. *(Original)* A method as recited in Claim 2 wherein said user  
2 is assigned to a community as a function of a selection of said  
3 community by said user.

1       8. *(Original)* A method as recited in Claim 2 wherein said user  
2 is assigned to a community as a function of a profile of said user  
3 existing before said search request is made.

1       9. *(Original)* A system comprising:  
2 a search-request receiver for receiving a search request from a  
3 user;  
4 a community assigner for assigning said user to a community;  
5 a search-request parser for assigning said search request to a  
6 query;  
7 a search engine for collecting search items in response to said  
8 query; and  
9 a prioritizer for prioritizing said search items as a function of  
10 previous searches by said community.

1        10. *(Original)* A system as recited in Claim 9 further comprising  
2 a tracker for tracking indications of interest by a user in search  
3 items collected in response to said search request from said user,  
4 said prioritizer using said indications of interest to determine said  
5 function for future queries.

1        11. *(Original)* A system as recited in Claim 10 wherein said  
2 community assigner assigns said user to a community for said  
3 future search requests at least in part as a function of said  
4 indications of interest.

1        12. *(Previously presented)* A database comprising:  
2 a key field identifying hit counts;  
3 a second field indicating values for respective hit counts;  
4 a query context field indicating query contexts for respective hit  
5 counts; and  
6 a user and/or a community field indicating respective users  
7 and/or communities associated with said hit counts.

1        13. *(Original)* A database as recited in Claim 12 further  
2 comprising a decay field for indicating times associated with said  
3 hit counts.

1        14. *(Previously presented)* A database as recited in Claim 12  
2 further comprising of a periodic update system to update the  
3 community record counts from the user record counts.